

Message Text

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INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 1308

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: BTRA, ECON, SOCI, CH

SUBJECT: M.W. KELLOGG INQUIRY RE LIVING CONDITIONS IN PRC

REF: STATE 214067

SUMMARY. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS FROM M. W. KELLOGG COMPANY RAISED IN THE REFTEL, THIS CABLE PROVIDES INFORMATION ON SHENYANG AND LIUCHOW. USLO WOULD IMPRESS ON M.W. KELLOGG THE POTENTIAL DIFFICULTIES OF LIVING IN THE PRC AND STRESS THE NEED FOR SELECTING STABLE AND PATIENT MEN FOR THE JOB. END SUMMARY.

1. USLO HAS LITTLE TO ADD TO INFORMATION ALREADY AVAILABLE TO WASHINGTON ON SHENYANG AND LIUCHOW. SHENYANG IS REASONABLY PLEASANT, BY CHINESE STANDARDS. MOST VISITORS STAY AT SHENYANG GUEST HOUSE, LOCATED ON THE EDGE OF A WOODED PARK. ITS ROOMS ARE SIMILAR TO PEKING HOTEL ROOMS, BUT OF A LOWER STANDARD, AND THE CHINESE CUISINE IS REASONABLY GOOD. ONE SHENYANG DEPARTMENT STORE HAS A FLOOR CATERING TO FOREIGNERS, BUT SELECTION APPEARS MORE LIMITED THAN PEKING'S FRIENDSHIP STORE. WE HAVE NO INFORMATION ON LICHOW.

2. PRICES OF HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS AND RESTAURANTS WOULD PROBABLY BE SLIGHTLY LOWER IN SHENYANG THAN IN PEKING. WE DO NOT KNOW WHAT THESE COSTS WOULD BE IN LIUCHOW, BUT SUSPECT THEY WOULD ALSO BE LOWER. COLA INFORMATION FOR PEKING WOULD NOT BE FULLY APPLICABLE FOR EITHER CITY, SINCE THERE WOULD BE
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REDUCED AVAILABILITY OF SOME ITEMS LISTED IN THE COLA SURVEY AND

TRANSPORTATION COSTS FOR IMPORTED GOODS WOULD BE HIGHER FOR SHENYANG. THEY MIGHT BE HIGHER, OR LOWER, FOR LIUCHOW.

3. THERE ARE DAILY FLIGHTS FROM PEKING TO SHENYANG AND FOUR FLIGHTS A WEEK FROM KWANGCHOW TO KWEILIN, FROM WHICH A SAME-DAY CONNECTION CAN BE MADE BY TRAIN TO LIUCHOW. TRAIN LEAVES KWEILIN AT 1930 AND ARRIVES LIUCHOW AT 2212. TRAVEL BY NANNING WOULD BE LONGER; WE HAVE NO INFORMATION ON TRAINS FROM NANNING TO LIUCHOW.

4. DEPARTMENT SHOULD BE AWARE THAT, ACCORDING TO M. W. KELLOGG TEAM NOW IN PEKING, M. W. KELLOGG'S THIRD PLANT WILL BE GOING UP IN LUCHOW, SZECHUAN, NOT IN LIUCHOW, KWANGSI. WE HAVE NO MORE INFORMATION ON LUCHOW THAN ON LIUCHOW. TO GET TO LUCHOW ONE WOULD FLY KWANGCHOW-CHUNGKING (FOUR FLIGHTS A WEEK) AND TRAVEL ON BY CAR.

5. RE PARA 7 REFTTEL, USLO'S ONLY ADVICE IS THAT AMERICAN TECHNICIANS SHOULD BE MADE FULLY AWARE OF THE POTENTIAL OF DIFFICULTIES OF LIFE IN CHINA FOR FOREIGNERS LIVING OUTSIDE PEKING, PARTICULARLY FOR THOSE WHO DO NOT KNOW THE LANGUAGE AND DO NOT HAVE A SPECIAL INTEREST IN CHINA'S CULTURE OR RECENT HISTORY. THE FOREIGNER IN CHINA LIVES SURROUNDED BY CHINESE BUT EFFECTIVELY CUT OFF FROM SOCIAL CONTACT WITH THE PEOPLE. ON THE STREETS OF CHINA'S CITIES HE MAY BE GAWKED AT AND FOLLOWED BY CROWDS OF CURIOUS CITIZENS. HE FACES A TOTAL ABSENCE OF WESTERN ENTERTAINMENT, LIQUOR, READING MATERIAL AND MOST OTHER AMENITIES. ENCOUNTERING CHINESE REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURES, THE AVERAGE AMERICAN IS LIKELY TO FIND THEM RESTRICTIVE, BURDENSOME AND UNNECESSARY, AND THIS MAY CAUSE FRUSTRATION. WHILE THESE POTENTIALLY UNPLEASANT FACTORS MAY BE PARTIALLY OFF-SET BY THE WARMTH AND FRIENDLINESS OF THOSE CHINESE WITH WHOM THE TECHNICIANS DO HAVE DAILY CONTACT, BY THE MAGNIFICENCE OF CHINESE CUISINE (IF THEY LIKE IT) AND BY THE GENERAL ALLURE OF LIVING FOR A SHORT TIME IN THE PRC, THIS IS BY NO MEANS ASSURED. M.W. KELLOGG, AND ANY OTHER COMPANY, WOULD DO WELL TO ENSURE THAT ONLY FLEXIBLE, STABLE AND PATIENT MEN, WITH TOLERANCE AND A SENSE OF HUMOR, ARE SELECTED.

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